

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims.

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of managing transactions with multiple broker affiliates, each broker affiliate having an affiliate computer and an affiliate database connected thereto, which method comprises the steps of:

providing a central exchange including an exchange server and an exchange database connected thereto;

storing in said exchange database information corresponding to goods and/or services available for sale by broker affiliates and/or requested to purchase by ~~one or more affiliates~~ customers;

maintaining a rules set with said central exchange for affiliates an originating broker affiliate to identify individually identifying goods and/or services available for sale directly to customers which are to be shown on a website of the originating broker affiliate and to identify goods and/or services available for sale to customers by other broker affiliates which are to be shown on their respective websites ~~and the websites of the other broker affiliates~~, said ~~affiliates specifying in said~~ rules set specifying transaction conditions with respect to goods and/or services ~~made available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers by other broker affiliates~~ thereby for transactions ~~with other said affiliates~~ conducted via said distributed network;

said broker affiliates controlling said rules set;

connecting said exchange server to the affiliate computers via a distributed network;

storing in said affiliate databases information corresponding to goods and/or services;

uploading to said ~~central~~ exchange database said affiliate database information corresponding to goods and/or services available for transactions via the distributed network;

conducting real-time transactions involving said goods and/or services in said exchange database ~~across said distributed network~~ via said distributed network;
providing Internet (world wide web) access to said exchange server;
providing a web page and linking same to said affiliate computers;
providing a web-based bulletin board and access thereto by said broker affiliates;
posting to said web-based bulletin board information concerning goods and/or services available for sale purchase and/or requested to purchase through the central exchange;

preprogramming said central exchange with said transaction conditions applicable to said broker affiliates ~~and for~~ conducting transactions ~~across said distributed network~~ via said distributed network ~~according to said preprogrammed conditions~~;

conducting ~~affiliate-to-affiliate~~ transactions with respect to said goods and/or services ~~across said distributed network~~ via said distributed network according to said preprogrammed conditions;

said broker affiliates ~~uploading their respective inventories of goods and/or services to the exchange and~~ conducting ~~real-time~~ transactions with customers involving goods and/or services available from other broker affiliates via with other affiliates across said distributed network pursuant to said ~~predetermined terms and~~ transaction conditions via a web inventory sharing function of the distributed network;

reporting data with respect to ~~said affiliate-to-affiliate~~ transactions across said distributed network to said central exchange;

said distributed network handling ~~affiliate-to-affiliate~~ transactions with respect to goods and/or services and for recording, reporting and storing data with respect to said transactions;

providing a special order system enabling broker affiliates to sell non-inventory goods and/or services not in their possession;

receiving via the distributed network purchase requests from customers for said non-inventory goods and/ or services;

distributing via the distributed network purchase requests for said non-inventory goods and/ or services;

sending ~~an affiliate a~~ purchase request from a customer received by a selling broker affiliate to said exchange server via a web service;
said exchange server parsing and building request documents;
said exchange server sending said request back to said selling broker affiliate;
said originating broker affiliate sending goods and/or services information to said exchange server concerning said request;
said exchange server sending selling information concerning said goods and/or services to ~~a buying affiliate~~ said customer;
said ~~buying affiliate~~ customer confirming purchase to said exchange service;
said exchange ~~service~~ server sending a transaction confirmation to said ~~buying affiliate~~ customer; and
said ~~buying affiliate~~ customer sending a transaction confirmation to said exchange ~~service~~ server.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, which includes the additional steps of:

enabling broker affiliate control of splitting of grouped goods and/or services according to predetermined procedures; and
offering such grouped goods and/or services according to such predetermined procedures.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, which includes the additional steps of:

enabling broker affiliate control of credit card purchasing of goods and/or services from ~~other affiliates~~ customers; and
inputting to said central exchange credit card information from said customers ~~affiliates~~ for use in ~~connection with affiliate-to-affiliate~~ transactions.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said goods and/or services comprise tickets to entertainment and/or sports events.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~14~~ 19 wherein said tickets are specified for purchase by a purchasing affiliate by event, venue, date and seating section.

21. (New) A method of managing electronic commerce transactions involving tickets to events, the method comprising:

- receiving ticket information at a central exchange computer system from a seller, the ticket information comprising one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as available for sale to customers by seller affiliates of the central exchange computer system;

- receiving a rules set at the central exchange computer system from the seller, the rules set specifying posting conditions and transaction conditions with respect to the one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as available for sale to customers by the seller affiliates;

- sending one or more groups of tickets available for sale to customers by the seller affiliates for posting on respective websites of the seller affiliates in accordance with the posting conditions; and

- managing electronic commerce transactions conducted with seller affiliates involving one or more groups of tickets posted on the websites of the seller affiliates in accordance with the transaction conditions.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

- receiving ticket information from the seller comprising one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as available for sale directly to customers; and

- sending the one or more groups of tickets available for sale directly to customers for posting on a website of the seller hosted by the central exchange computer system.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as available for sale directly to customers comprises one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as available for sale to customers by the seller affiliates.
24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein one or more of the websites of the seller affiliates is hosted by the central exchange computer system.
25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the posting conditions identify seller affiliates which are allowed to show ticket groups of the seller and identify seller affiliates which are not allowed to show ticket groups of the seller.
26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the posting conditions specify a required price markup.
27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein one or more of the seller, the customers, and the seller affiliates comprises a ticket broker.
28. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising posting one or more groups of tickets for sale that are not possessed by the seller.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
receiving a purchase order involving one or more groups of tickets that are not possessed by the seller; and
managing an electronic commerce transaction conducted by the seller to procure tickets for fulfilling the purchase order.
30. (New) One or more computer-readable storage devices storing executable computer program instructions that when executed cause a computer system to:
receive ticket information at a central exchange computer system from a seller, the ticket information comprising one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as

available for sale to customers by seller affiliates of the central exchange computer system;

receive a rules set at the central exchange computer system from the seller, the rules set specifying posting conditions and transaction conditions with respect to the one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as available for sale to customers by the seller affiliates;

send the one or more groups of tickets available for sale to customers by the seller affiliates for posting on respective websites of the seller affiliates in accordance with the posting conditions; and

manage electronic commerce transactions conducted with seller affiliates involving one or more groups of tickets posted on the websites of the seller affiliates in accordance with the transaction conditions.

31. (New) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to:

receive ticket information from the seller comprising one or more groups of tickets identified by the seller as available for sale directly to customers; and

send the one or more groups of tickets available for sale directly to customers for posting on a website of the seller hosted by the central exchange computer system.

32. (New) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to host one or more of the websites of the seller affiliates.

33. (New) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, wherein the posting conditions identify seller affiliates which are allowed to show ticket groups of the seller and specify whether a price markup is required.

34. (New) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to post one or more groups of tickets for sale that are not possessed by the seller.

35. (New) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 34, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to:

receive a purchase order involving one or more groups of tickets that are not possessed by the seller; and

manage an electronic commerce transaction conducted by the seller to procure tickets for fulfilling the purchase order.